

The Church
Mission
Matthew 9:35-38
Acts 1:8
Colossians 4:2-6
1 Peter 3:15

- Read Matthew 9:35-10:42. Matthew 10:5-42 is known as the Missionary Discourse in the Gospel of Matthew.
 - Is this text meaningful for us today?
 - Should we expect to perform miracles as we take the gospel to the world?
 - What should we expect, realistically, when we share the gospel, whether at home or abroad?

- Read Acts 1:8
 - In what ways does our church obey the command in this text? How do you work at this?
 - Spend time praying for our mission team members and/or our missionaries, listed below.

- Read Colossians 4:2-6. In the NIV, Colossians 4:5 says, “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.” This command is in the context of sharing your faith with those who do not know Jesus. Not every encounter with an unbeliever is an opportunity to share the gospel.
 - How do you know when an encounter with an unbeliever is an opportunity to share the gospel? Are there times when you should not share the gospel?
 - Give some examples of opportunity/not opportunity
 - Are you more likely to share when you shouldn’t, or to not share when you should?

- 1 Peter 3:15 is more a response to questions rather than an intentional witness – or is it? Christians were being persecuted when Peter wrote his letter. To live the way God calls for in Peter’s letter should provoke questions.
 - What are some examples of godly living in 1 Peter?

- What can you do to prepare for questions that unbelievers might ask you about the gospel?
- Encourage, exhort, and pray for one another!

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

1. Do you think it is more important to be familiar with the cultural issues of the day or to work at increasing your knowledge and understanding of Scripture?
2. Is it better to ensure that your children have every opportunity to advance in education, sports, or work, or will it be more meaningful for you to model commitment to the church community in which your family worships?
3. Would you rather convert others to your political point of view or share Jesus with them and leave the results to God?

Sharing the gospel is successful evangelism.

The message that Jesus preached would ultimately lead to his death, which, ironically, was God’s plan all along. Remember, gospel means good news, and the good news is wrapped up in Jesus who had compassion on the people because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. This was an indictment on the Jewish religious leaders, and it would be well-placed today. **“Harassed” carries connotations of this harassment coming from Satan – ironic since this was an indictment of the religious leaders.**

Adam’s sin was imputed (assigned, credited) to us when we were conceived. Jesus’ righteousness is imputed to us when we believe.

Policies for Supporting Missionaries

1. **We support our own** – those who are, or have been, members of Grace Community Church for two years
 - You must have been an *active* member for two years.
 - Children of members are included in this group for short term missions. We encourage our students to take the Grace Connection class when they turn 15 and officially join the church.
 - Even for short-term mission support, membership is important.

- There would be exceptions to this policy, such as Joe Hunziker and Isola Camp in Italy. There are other support opportunities as well, but this policy is meant to ensure that we can support those in our body who are called to missions.

2. We go deep before going broad

- If we cannot afford to give our missionaries a raise, we cannot afford to bring new missionaries on for support.
- This does not mean “only go deep with our current missionaries,” but it means they are priority.
- In other words, we are willing to support fewer missionaries at a higher level than supporting many missionaries at a lower level.
- This also allows us to go deeper in relationship with our missionaries.

3. We continue support after retirement, if needed

- Many of the missionaries Grace took on in the early days are nearing retirement age.
- In the 60’s and 70’s, it was common for preachers to tell young men and women who were being called into service that it was sinful to plan for the future (based on a legalistic interpretation of certain texts).
- This policy should not be needed much longer.

Our Mission Team Members

Neal Manning – team leader
Winnona Clayton
Drew Hanson
Ted McKinney
Margueritte Strand
Alison Talley
Josh Tate
Erika White
Kyle White

Our Mission Budget

Missions 2025 Budget 2026 Proposed

International Missions

Centre for Biblical Preaching	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Dennis Beck - Cru	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Joe Hunziker	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Joy Kernicky - Health Service Corps <i>included in mission funding requests</i>	9,000.00 – <i>amount for next year</i>
Matt & Katie Budd – Pioneers	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Ben McGuire – Cru	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Ron Stafford – Pioneers	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Roy Lytle	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Neal Manning – Trans World Radio	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Forrest & Laura Strickland – UAE	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Ryan & Kristina Swanson – MTW	4,080.00
Total World Missions	90,000.00 to 88,320.00

Domestic Missions

Amazing Grace Adoptions	5,100.00 to 5,400.00
Barnabas Ministries	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Hand of Hope	5,100.00 to 5,400.00
Lighthouse Ministries – Wilson	3,900.00
Teen Valley Ranch	9,000.00 to 9,360.00
Total Domestic Missions	32,100.00 to 29,520.00

Missions - Other

Missions Funding Requests	7,000.00 to 16,610.00
Missions Fair	500.00
Mission Team Meetings	800.00 to 800.00
NC Baptist State Convention	500.00 to 500.00
SBC Cooperative	500.00 to 500.00
Total Missions - Other	9,300.00 to 18,410.00
Total Missions	131,400.00 to 136,250.00

Questions to be answered during our series on The Church:

1. What is the biblical foundation for the church?
2. What is the difference between the universal church and the local church? If I am a member of the universal church, why do I need to be a member of a local church?

3. Speaking of membership, is church membership biblical? Why is membership encouraged at Grace?
4. What is the biblical structure for church leadership? How do our elders and deacons function?
5. Why do we require members to attend for at least a year before:
 - being considered as a deacon?
 - leading a ministry?
 - serving on a leadership team?
 - leading a home group?
6. Why do we require membership for two years before being considered as an elder?
7. If one of our core values is “every member a minister,” what can I do at Grace during my first year? What if the Holy Spirit has given me leadership giftings?
8. Why is home group attendance expected before being considered for leadership on any ministry team?
9. Why do we observe the Lord’s Supper twice a month? Do we consider the Table and baptism to be sacraments or ordinances?
10. Why the increased emphasis on giving this year?
11. Why do we recite creeds on occasion? Isn’t that somewhat Catholic?
12. Why do we not have an invitation at the end of the sermon?
13. Should I ask the elders to pray for me if I have a chronic illness or a major need in my life?
14. Why are only men allowed to serve as elders and deacons at Grace?
15. If we offer services online, is it okay for me to watch at home rather than attend?
16. What about missions? How many missionaries do we support? How does a missionary receive support from Grace? What about short-term trips? Does membership play a role?

Scripture Associated with the Message

Memory verse(s) for November:

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his

disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Colossians 4:5 (NIV) Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity (i.e., to share the gospel)**

1 Peter 3:15 . . . in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect.